

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 13, 22, 31 and 40 are amended. Thus, claims 1, 2, 7-13, 16-22, 25-32 and 40-43 remain pending with claims 1, 13, 22 and 31 being independent. The amendments are supported by the specification at page 25, lines 7-10. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 7-13, 16-22, 25-32 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA (Applicant's Admitted Prior Art) in view of Johnston (U.S. 4,518,642) and Hiroshima (U.S. 6,059,926).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 1 recites a speaker comprising a diaphragm, wherein the diaphragm is an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a speaker. In particular, Johnston disclosing forming a slurry of cellulose fibers and polypropylene fibers, and making a felt from the slurry. The felt is subjected to heat and pressure to fuse the polypropylene fibers together to form a skeleton or matrix which extends through the felt (*See Johnston Abstract*). Nowhere in Johnston is there a disclosure of a device capable of injection molding product. Further, Johnston fails to disclose an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture, as recited in claim 1.

Hiroshima discloses a method for manufacturing a paper diaphragm using fibrils made from fibers with the application of pressure. Therefore, Hiroshima also fails to disclose a device capable of injection molding product. Further, Hiroshima fails to disclose an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture, as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, there is no reasoning in the prior art to modify Johnston and/or Hiroshima, such that the proposed combination would have rendered claim 1 obvious. Therefore, Applicant submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that independent claim 13 and its dependent claims are allowable for

reasons similar to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a diaphragm for a speaker, the diaphragm being an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material.

Applicants submit that independent claim 22 and its dependent claims are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a dust cap for a speaker, the dust cap being an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material.

Applicants submit that independent claim 31 and its dependent claims are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious electronic equipment comprising a speaker, wherein the speaker includes a diaphragm and a dust cap, and each of the diaphragm and the dust cap is an injection-molded product made of a uniformly dispersed mixture containing a thermoplastic resin material and a fiber material.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Jeffrey J. Howell/

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